

West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department

Staff Management Report

Monday, January 25, 2016

1. Upcoming Program Dates:

- 1/23: 2nd/3rd grade basketball @ Cumberland
- 1/25: Parks Board Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- 2/1: City Summit/City Council Meeting @ 6:30 p.m., Morton Center
- 2/5: Dare to Bear @ Riverside Skating Center
- 3/6: Riverside Skating Center to close for the season

2. Pennie Ainsworth, Assistant Superintendent's Report

- The Indiana Park and Recreation Association's annual conference was held in Bloomington, January 13-15. I attended several good educational sessions. At the IPRA banquet, I received the Association's Distinguished Life Member Award. I have been an active IPRA member for 41+ years so it was a very nice to be honored by my fellow Parks and Recreation professionals.
- The Global Fest Committee has been meeting to determine a new direction for the event. The group has investigated many different options over several months. Our next Global Fest planning committee meeting is Friday, January 22.
- The Parks and Recreation department received a \$2,000 donation from Arni's Restaurants. Brad Cohen presented the check to be used for improvements to the Arni Cohen softball fields. Arni Cohen was an avid player and team sponsor for our adult softball league.
- We are requesting bids for concrete work for 18 pads next to existing benches and 3 pads for new grills to comply with the ADA requirements. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds have been allocated to pay for this work.

3. Chris Foley, Recreation Director's Report:

- The 2nd & 3rd Grade basketball program will play their first games at Cumberland School on Saturday, Jan 23. 95 children are participating in this program coordinated by Chrissy Whiteaker. The
- Riverside Skating Center the recent colder weather is much better for the ice rink. The rink did closed for a few days due to rain and frigid temperatures.
- The first One day Learn to skate clinic was held on January 9. 21 people participated in this one day skate lesson clinic.
- Group Ice skating lessons will begin on January 16 with 69 children registered. The three (3) week lessons will continue through January 30.
- The Center's annual Dare to Bear will be held Friday, Feb. 5 from 7-8:30 pm. Brave skaters will make laps around the ice rink in their bathing suits or costumes.

4. Bess Witcosky, Morton Center Director:

- Morton classes are off to a good start! The new classes and instructors are very popular and seeing good registrations. Of note- Dance Fit with Van Stokes, Intro to Metal Smithing with Julie Bunch, and the Niches workshops. The Yoga program is also very popular as usual.
- Morton is looking to partner with the Boiler Green Initiative to create a Rain Garden off of Morton's parking lot. More details will be available in February.
- The Morton part time staff is working on populating a variety of community calendars with Parks Department special events, Morton workshops, and classes.

5. Jon Munn, Parks Director Report:

- Trail and Playground inspections have been completed and are on file.

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- During trail inspections a large amount of debris was located on the Fishtail Trail. I contacted Wabash Valley Alliance because it appeared to be related to a homeless camp. It was determined that no persons were sleeping in the area. WLPD checked out the scene and the parks crew cleaned up the mess.
- The lattice fencing at the community garden was damaged by the wind so the parks crew removed the lattice and left it stacked behind the garden shed. We are working with the gardeners to make improvements to the compost bin area in the spring.
- Attended Board of Works meeting 12/29/15.
- Replaced 3 tires on Parks Jeep Cherokee.
- Performed oil leak clean up at Morton Center parking lot.
- Cleaned up extensive flooding debris at Mascouten and Tapawingo Parks.
- Performed plumbing maintenance at Morton Center, leaking toilet and sink.
- Made repairs to both Kilns at Morton pottery studio.
- Received new Tool cat from Bobcat Lafayette.
- Have been communicating with spring boards and more about diving board resurfacing. The boards are crated up and ready for shipment.
- We continue to add stone along trail edges for erosion control at Tapawingo and Happy Hollow Parks.
- Sterilized floor with a mold preventer of art classroom Morton Center.
- Made repairs to broken ice skates.
- Made repairs to outside air handler unit at Parks Service Center.
- We have had 2 snow removal events and things have gone smoothly.
- We have removed several of the trees designated for removal at the house demo site at Kalberer and Salisbury Street.
- Attended preliminary meeting for the trail construction of Kingston trail.
- We are experiencing some plumbing issues with toilet and sink drains at Tom's Happy Hollow residence. Tom is trying to resolve but we may need to contact a drain specialist.
- Installed plywood cover over public art chalkboard at Rubia Flower market.
- Meeting with Artisan Electric today to estimate cost of lighting the new Art/sign at the entrance to the Celery bog Park.
- Rearranged some of the barn storage so that we can help with some storage space for a couple pieces of equipment for the Street Dept. and Wastewater Dept.
- We have spent some time on routine maintenance of equipment related to snow removal equipment.

6. Dan Dunten, Stewardship Director's Report

- **Job Description Changes:** To help facilitate a smooth transition with responsibilities at the Celery Bog Nature Area I met with various volunteers and a county Parks & Recreation staff member. There are additional tasks that I will now be taking over and I wanted to get input from as many people as possible. More meetings and brainstorming sessions are planned for the future.
- **Indiana Parks and Recreation Association Conference:** I was asked to serve on the planning committee for this conference, which was held January 13 - 15 in Bloomington. We heard several positive comments on the educational seminars and overall schedule. I served as the coordinator for a new event for new members, plus assisted with many other functions at conference.

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7. Janet Fawley, Park Superintendent's Report:

- Celery Bog Nature Area Sign/Public Art (RDC) Artist installed during holidays; lighting yet to be completed.
- Worked with Stormwater Manager Michael Susong et al to prepare IPRA presentation on Stormwater Management for IPRA State Conference. Presentation made at State Conference.
- Key administrative staff attended IPRA State Conference. Very positive and informative conference.
- Worked with staff of Parsons Brinkerhoff re Kingston Trail on several occasions. Latest meeting included WLSCS staff Bob Troyer regarding need for ROW's for trail in front of Happy Hollow School.
- Completed 2015 Annual Report
- Additional discussions held regarding the WREC Central Reach Vision
- KaBoom Webinar viewed for Kiwanis Playground at Cumberland Park
- Phone Conference w/ Ryan Cambridge of BDMD + additional Purdue Landscape Architecture Students that will be helping with Master Plan.
- Questionnaire is 95% complete... yet to finalize for distribution.

8. Larger Projects to be completed this year:

- New Curtains at Multi-Purpose Room at Morton Center
- Replace Chevy Venture and truck
- Purchase a "batwing" Mower and Bark Blower
- Happy Hollow Playground
- Kiwanis Playground at Cumberland Park
- Purchase trail counter system; get trail use figures in master plan

2015 Projects below in various stages towards completion:

- Morton Center Mirrors for Rooms 202 & 206 (NRO Fund)
- ADA Work @ Tapawingo (RDC Funds)
- Happy Hollow Ravine Trail (RDC Funds) Work
- Celery Bog Nature Area Sign/Public Art (RDC) Artist installed during holidays; lighting yet to be installed
- HH Maintenance Building-Modine Heater (CCD fund) New heater received; yet to be installed.